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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT FOREIGN RADIO REACTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT ABOUT AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION IN THE USSR

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SOURCE FBID (This strictly factual report is based solely on monitored foreign radio
broadcasts received in Washington up to 7 a.m., 4 October 1949. It re-
produces a report prepared in response to a special request.)

INTRODUCTION: Little that is new has been added either to Soviet or to non-Soviet
comment on the atomic bomb. The post-announcement themes have now been worked into the
fabric of Soviet propaganda, however, so that they appear in any of the other contexts
in which peace is discussed.

"BLACKMAIL": Perhaps the commonest type of Soviet reference to the bomb continues to be
the assertion that the West can no longer hope to "blackmail" the democratic countries by
"intimidating" them with the bomb. For example, in a description of the celebration of
International Peace Day in the USSR, the Soviet poet Leonidze is quoted as saying: "We
are being intimidated by the atom bomb, but we have had it for a long time."

RETALIATION: The retaliation theme, dramatically introduced on 2 October by Ehrenburg,
also reappears. The Georgian scientist Muskhelishvili is said to have declared: "We do
not intend to use atomic energy for military purposes, but woe to those who will be the
first to try to do this."

BAN THE BOMB: In the U.N. context there is still no specific discussion of the concrete
points at issue, but only a stereotyped repetition of the plea to prohibit the bomb, with
a continued insistence that it is the USSR that wants "strict international control."

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